

FOOTPRINTS

First Christian Church



Greenwood SC



...where strangers become family

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 3, Issue 8
August, 2017

THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION OF GOD'S CHURCH

All Scripture is God-Breathed:

1. Teaching
2. Reproof
3. Correcting
4. Training in Righteousness
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Now that we have taken a look at the 4 pillars of the Restoration Movement, I want to spend the next 4 months discussing our Biblical foundation.

It is a great boast when a church claims to have the Bible as their foundation, but it need not be a false claim. If a church declares that the Bible is their guide, it is saying there is nothing created by man that will take the place of God's Word. This boast can be made with confidence as long as the church does not rely on manmade creeds,

official denominational statements, or any other tradition that does not allow the Bible to speak for itself. For this reason, we need to be careful about how much weight we assign to our favorite Bible College professor when discussing doctrine. Although we have many Biblical scholars in the Restoration Movement, we only have one Bible, which is our only rule for faith and practice.

The Bible is the spoken Word of God in written form so we can read it, study it, apply it, and teach it to others as we make disciples. And that is why we should never take it for granted.

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Check us out online:

www.fccgwd.org

Facebook:

FirstChristianGWD
Early Morning Snuggles
Mkdisciples Study Group

Address:

First Christian Church
474 Deadfall Road West
Greenwood SC 29646

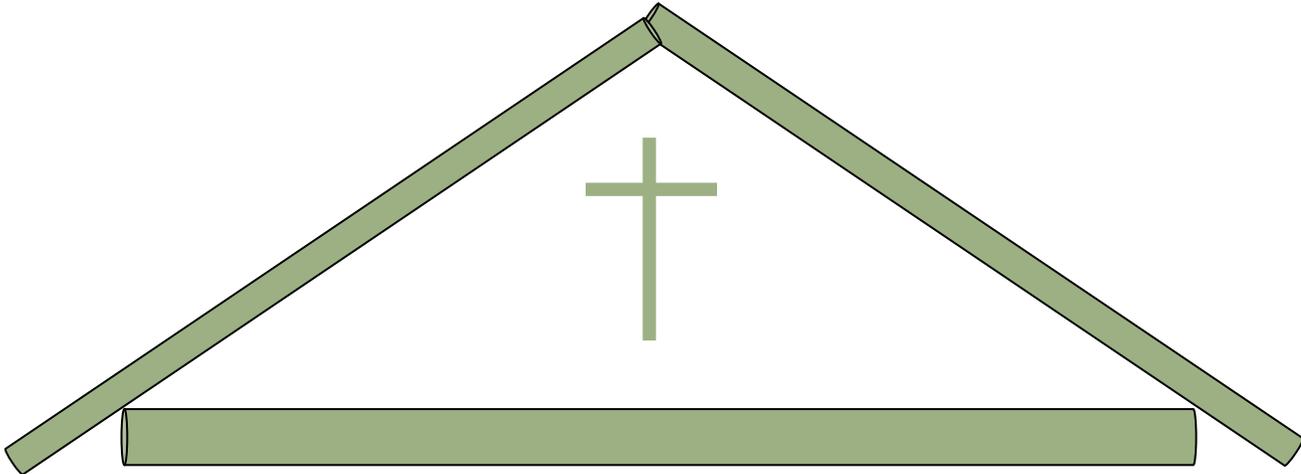
Church Office:

864-223-2940
Earl@fccgwd.org

Please keep us informed of any address changes so we can keep our records up to date.

What Kind of Church is First Christian Church?

First Christian Church is a non-denominational Elders-led Church located in Greenwood, SC. We are part of the movement to restore the simplicity of New Testament Christianity. We believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God, that He lived a sinless life, offered His life for ours on the Cross, and rose on the third day to live forever. We believe that salvation comes through simple obedience to the plan of salvation that is laid out in the pages of the New Testament.



Core Beliefs

A common misconception is that all churches believe and preach the same thing. Unfortunately that isn't the case. In a world that is greatly divided spiritually it is very important to know just exactly what a church believes and practices. We welcome the opportunity to sit with you and discuss these core beliefs in depth.

We believe...

1. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God who died for our sins and arose from the dead. **1 Corinthians 15:1-8**
2. That the Bible is the inspired Word of God - "a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path".
2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:105
3. That every person has worth as a creation of God but "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" **Romans 3:23**
4. That forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life are available to those who trust and obey Christ as Savior and Lord. **John 3:16**
5. That we are saved by grace through faith in Christ. **Ephesians 2:8-9**
6. That the Church is the body of Christ on earth and exists to save the lost and edify the saved.
Ephesians 4:1-16
7. That Jesus Christ will one day return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. **1 Thes 4:13-18**
8. That those accepting Christ must repent of sin, confess their faith and be baptized into Him.
Romans 10:9, Acts 2:38

For more information about baptism, see our Baptism FAQ located on our website

Biblical Foundation

Plan ahead, it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

Anxiety (Michael Winfrey)

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

It is that time of year again. The time when I sit down and get online to begin pouring over the Rainbow Resource website in order to get curriculum for the school year. This is my 4th year doing it and I will admit that I have gotten A LOT better! The first two years I had the website plus their catalog, which is bigger than a phonebook (and I know I date myself with using the word "phonebook"). I would flip through the pages and scroll through the website, writing lists of possible curriculum. I would then re-arrange it in groups so that each group costs just over \$50.00. That way I can get free shipping on my order. Last year was the same song and dance, just without the catalog. I still made groups and then re-arranged them till everything was just "right". On several occasions I made the mistake of changing the curriculum which messed up ALL of my pretty little organized groups. This year I just wrote everything down and left the list as is. No groups, no re-arranging, no stress! YEAH RIGHT!!!!

What I fail to mention is that every year, no matter how many groups I make to equal \$50.00, the same thing still happens! I stress and worry about how we will pay for the curriculum for the upcoming year. Curriculum is expensive! This year is probably the least amount spent on curriculum and it is still a painful figure to look at. There are moments (very fleeting moments) when I think about enrolling them in public school so that I don't have to worry about this. I am quickly reminded of all the new issues I would have to worry about!

Just as quickly as I am reminded of all the other issues I could be worried about, I am also quickly reminded of Philippians 4:6. I used to read this verse and believe that it was only for the BIG "every situation". You know those situations: new jobs, deaths, cancer, loss of job, etc. God is too busy with those BIG situations. I am reminded that EVERY means exactly that....E-V-E-R-Y!!!!

What situations are in your life that you think are way too small to be taken to God?

There is nothing too insignificant to take to Him! Take your "every situation" to Him today!

"Pray for FCC"

For 2017, we want to cover our church in prayer on a weekly basis. Along with the many prayers that go up on our behalf, I am declaring every Tuesday to be a day for us to offer up special prayers specifically for our church. Please join us by praying at some point every Tuesday!

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When the Apostle Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy, he was encouraging this young Minister to maintain a high respect for the Bible so that the rest of the people can see that the Bible is something that needs to be held in high regard.

¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for **teaching**, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV)

I put the word "teaching" in bold because I want to focus on it for this month. If the church is not using the Bible for teaching, that church will soon starve because it is spiritually malnourished. The purpose for the Bible is so we can learn what God wants for our lives. If we cannot teach the Bible, the people will never learn it. This is why we must make every effort to maintain a healthy routine of Bible study throughout the entire year. We accomplish this by having Sunday School, Wednesday Bible Study, Biblically based sermons, and the occasional Sunday Night Study.

In addition to the traditional programs, I also offer private studies for either groups or one on one, and I have an office full of books that can be used for personal study. I guess what I am trying to say is that we are without excuse because the Bible is being taught on a regular basis here. All you have to do is take a look at the calendar or bulletin to find out when we are meeting, and then you need to show up for class.

This is where we have a tendency to spin our wheels. Sometimes it seems like everybody wants the study the Bible, but they don't want to show up for class so the Bible can be studied. Any class that is being offered will have a teacher eagerly waiting for the students to show up, and that teacher will be well prepared for the subject being taught. I guarantee that the lessons will be Biblically based and the students will learn as long as they are paying attention.

Having said all of that, the classroom is ready. We have seats that need to be filled and the Bible is waiting to be opened. When are you going to show up for class? Don't waste another week thinking about attending. Just make up your mind to be here and you will be taught the Bible. If you can't make it to class, all you have to do is contact me and I will make sure you get the notes, the lesson, or a personal study time so we can keep you in the loop.

The greatest compliment I could have as a minister would be for our church to crave Bible Study so much that there would be a need for me to teach all week long!

I love teaching the Bible, and I love teaching it in different settings. I have taught at church, in school buildings, at playgrounds, on the beach, at the lake, in a graveyard, at a restaurant, the mall, in people's homes, in the grass, and at a neighborhood clubhouse. No matter where it is or what time is needed, I am willing to teach as long as you are willing to be taught!

I love our church!
Earl Winfrey

Wisdom of Larry the Cable Guy:

On the other hand, you have different fingers.

Missions ~ an Award Series by Sara Lantzer

On my 35th birthday, I gave awards to my family members for helping me achieve certain qualities in my life. Sister First received one titled Missions. (Please note that names have been changed to protect the identities of the superheroes around me!)

“Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:4)

Being the fourth of seven children, I looked up to and was very impacted by my older siblings. In particular, whatever my oldest sister was interested in, that is what I wanted to do also. She was in Fifth grade when I was in First, and boy, did I feel cool when there was room for me to sit next to her and her friends on the school bus, or when I could tell my classmates that my sister was running for class president. Eventually, I followed closely on her heels when she decided to be baptized, and when she joined the homeschool volleyball league, and when she became a missionary in Europe. ...Hmmm. It just now hit me that this is a picture of how Jesus wants us to be looking up to Him! What we see Him interested in, what we see Him doing, that is what He wants us to do also. Now that’s cool!

A single lady had the security of a loving family and a familiar environment – she exchanged these for the chance to impact strangers in a foreign country with the hope of Jesus’ love and the salvation of their souls.

A married man was a singer/songwriter that couldn’t reach his own standard of great lyrics, and he became depressed and ashamed – the honest song he wrote was about the silent shadow even his wife and children could see in his eyes, but nonetheless, its impact today on fellow depressed or ashamed individuals is far-reaching and God-honoring! *

An Olympic gold medalist gave up an interest he was really good at in order to join his father at a mission in China – Eric Liddell’s story is told -albeit kind of sensationally, and with some details misrepresented- in the movie Chariots of Fire.

But what if someone’s interests are detrimental? What if my own interests are essential and healthy? What if others aren’t interested in me? Has God given a command that is impossible? Has He given a talent that is unnecessary?? Has the world become so self-centered that He can’t get through to it anymore??? Certainly NOT! Humans are very close to God’s heart, and He cares about each and every one of them to the point of leaving His throne, taking part in the interests of mankind, taking on death at the cross, and taking up His life again in order to enable our interests to gain eternal proportions.

We might be able to choose whether interests are interesting to us or not, but we can’t choose the impact it makes on others. Look out!

* “The Rain Keeps Falling”, by Andrew Peterson

Sara Lantzer is a friend of the Winfreys who currently lives and works and writes in a small town in Michigan. She enjoys storytelling, creativity, uniqueness and spontaneity.

Hiding in Plain Sight (Earl Winfrey)

The day after the NACC, we began our vacation by driving to Wamego Kansas so we could see the Oz Museum. That place had everything you could imagine from the ruby slippers Dorothy wore to the life-size replica of the front porch that belonged to the house in Kansas. They even had a tornado simulator that you could step inside and feel the wind. I think Michael put a video of the Wee Ones in that machine on Facebook. It was definitely worth the trip.

From the museum, we drove north to Lincoln Nebraska because I wanted to check out the corporate headquarters of the online business that I am part of. It is a part time project for me that gives me enough money for a candy bar every month, but for others, this is their full-time job that pays very well. I am not giving the name here because that is not the purpose for this article. A few months ago, I contacted the corporate office to let them know that we would be in the area and would like to see them, and they responded with the directions to the office. The week before the NACC, I confirmed the day and time we would be traveling through, and they told me that the office is usually empty on Friday afternoons, but the owner of the company will be there to meet us! Wow!

After visiting the Oz Museum, we were able to go meet the “Man behind the curtain” at the corporate office of that online business.

As we were driving to Lincoln, the thoughts went racing through my mind because I have never met anybody who could make more money in one year than I would make in my entire life! I remembered the Richie Rich cartoon that had the gold bars everywhere, the helicopter, pool in the shape of an “R” and the family dressed up in fancy clothes. I joked about having to watch for the helicopter landing as the owner of the company steps out.

I knew that it was highly unlikely that a helicopter would be taking him to the office, but it was fun to think about. We arrived at the office, and it was basically a corner of a strip mall type building, and a small sign to indicate that we were in the right place. As we approach the door, the owner welcomes us and has us sit down for water and conversation. If I didn’t know who he was, I would never guess that this man was the owner of the company! He was very down to earth and pleasant to talk to. He introduced me to his tech guy who was working on the server, and that guy eventually left. My guess is that he was also there just in case we ended up having ulterior motives for being there. That was a smart move considering how much money he is worth and the fact that we were strangers to him.

We had a long conversation about the company, the Wee Ones talked about the trip, and we talked about different types of music and other stuff too. I asked him if anybody has ever visited before, and he said that it happens from time to time. He said that they don’t encourage it, but they don’t discourage it either. We left with the impression that he was genuinely happy to be able to meet me and my family.

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The most impressive part for me was that this man lived in the midst of the residents of Lincoln NE and yet the people most likely had no idea he was there. He was hiding in plain sight. He has worked for over 30 years in the online business and is worth so much more than his clothes and actions showed. The corporate office was not very impressive and yet there are affiliates all over the world working for this company. You would think that having all of that money flowing through the company, they would lock themselves up with a gate and guard shack, but they were in an ordinary office with an ordinary security system, hiding in plain sight.

That is a great strategy for people who are worth that much money, but it is a terrible way for a church to be.

Are we hiding in plain sight? Does our neighbor know we exist? Way too often the church sits in the middle of the community without the community ever getting to know the church. We must guard against that by making sure the people around us know who we are and why we are here. We must create and maintain the relationships necessary for ministry to be effective right here on Deadfall road in Greenwood SC! How do we do this? We can start by opening the doors to our lives, not just our building. When people see that we are genuinely interested in getting to know them, there will be a better chance for us to minister to them.

For this reason, we need to be creative with our outreach. We should think outside the box as we move outside the walls of our church building. This will be an ongoing discussion as we move forward with God leading the way.

What does my neighbor, who is lost, need to know?

- Man is naturally good, but capable of sin
 - Man has an inward desire to do right
 - Sin can corrupt this desire, and cause pain
- God loves man
 - He wants to save us from sin (Romans 6:23)
 - He wants to help us live (Matt. 6:25-34)
 - He wants to forgive our mistakes (Acts 2:38)
- By joining up with God, we get a new life
 - Sin no longer controls us (Romans 6:1-14)
 - We have the power to say “no” to sin
 - We have life through Christ
 - We have a responsibility to stay away from sin
 - We have a purpose and a calling (The Great Commission)
 - We have gifts and abilities (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Tips for effective evangelism

- Remember who the judge is!
- Be motivated by love
- Don't assume they know anything
- Don't assume they know nothing
- Build relationships, not recruits
- Enjoy witnessing!

"I gotta go back, back, back to school again. You won't find me 'til the clock strikes three.
I'm gonna be there 'til then. I gotta go back, back, back to school again."

Those are some of the lyrics to the opening song of Grease 2 (one of my favorite movies). Just like in Grease, you have the T-Birds and the Pink Ladies. These two groups rule the school...and they had the jackets to prove it! Those jackets meant something. They meant that the people who wore them belonged, they were important to someone.

As you start back to school, you might not dance into the front doors with a flashy song. You might not have a snazzy jacket to wear that says you belong, but remember this, you do belong. As you walk through the halls remember who you are. More importantly, remember WHOSE you are. You are a child of God!



"But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'" (Matthew 19:14 ESV)

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)

Answer to last month's question:

Solomon was anointed at Gihon (1 Kings 1:28-53)

Winners: Wil Winfrey/Michaela Winfrey/Michael Winfrey



Honorable Mention: ?

Be one of the first 3 people to answer correctly and you will be a winner!

Be one of #4-10 to answer and you will receive an honorable mention!

This month's question:
Who was David's father?

Soup Kitchen Donations are Appreciated

We support our local soup kitchen once per month by supplying some of the food they need. If you would like to participate, be sure to check out the list of items needed on the communication station in the Fellowship Hall. Every can counts!

**CALLING ALL MEN!!!!**

We are starting a monthly get together for the men of our church as soon as we can work out a time and a place for us to meet. When this happens, I want us to commit to this meeting and keep it is a high priority so we can encourage each other to be the men of God we have been called to be. I want us to show our families what Godly men look like!

In addition to a monthly men's night, I will be working on leadership training for those who are interested in finding out what the Bible says about church leadership. Whether you are thinking about stepping up or just curious, I want you to be part of our group!

- Earl Winfrey

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." - Romans 12:12 (NIV)

Don't forget to pray for those churches around us and near our hearts!

Bethany Christian Church (Bumpass, VA)
Christian Church at Deleon Springs, FL
East Win Christian Church (Memphis, TN)
First Christian Church of Fairburn, GA
First Christian Church of Hampton, SC
First Christian Church of Kissimmee, FL
First Christian Church of Mountain City GA
First Presbyterian Church, Greenwood SC

Hartford Christian Church (Hartford, KY)
Lilburn Christian Church, GA
Port Orange Christian Church, FL
Rabun County Church of Christ (Tiger, GA)
Southlake Christian Church (Groveland, FL)
Toccoa Christian Church (Toccoa, GA)
Tomoka Christian Church (Ormond Beach, FL)
Tucker Christian Church, GA

If anyone knows of any churches that need to be added to this list, be sure to let Earl know.

First Christian Church of Greenwood SC (864) 223-2940 www.fccgwd.org

Calendar of Events - August 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday: Prayer - 9:30am S.S. - 9:45am Worship - 11am	Circle of Joy is open for all women to attend	“Pray for FCC” reminder to pray for our church every Tuesday	Wed Bible Study for all ages (6:00pm)	Worship with Winifreys at the Magnolia Manor nursing home	Daily Scriptures are given for us in anticipation of the sermon	Mission of the Month: The NAACC
Elders meet as needed. For questions, see Frank or Marvin	Ladies' Lunch will be discussed at the C.O.J. meeting	1 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Matt 7:13-29	2 Exodus 25	3 Exodus 26	4 Exodus 27	5 Matt 6:19-24
6	7 2 Kings 12	8 <u>Pray for FCC</u>	9 2 Kings 23:1-30	10 Matt 17:24-27	11 Luke 19:11-27	12 Matt 25:14-30
13 Circle of Joy 1:30pm	14 Exodus 30	15 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Num 3:39-51	16 Matt 20:1-16	17 (Mark 12:38-44) Worship with Winifreys 3pm	18 Acts 5:1-11	19 Ecc 5:8-6:12
20	21 Psalm 15	22 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Proverbs 13	23 Proverbs 17	24 (John 12:1-11) Newsletter Submissions due	25 James 4	26 Ecclesiastes 7
27 Fellowship Meal After Worship	28 Num 13:1-24	29 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Num 13:25-33	30 Num 14:1-12	31 Num 14:13-25	Coming Soon: Men's Night!	Be sure to look for our church-wide event in the bulletin!